

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Response, claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (6,453,233). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kato teaches a differential update method for a vehicle navigation apparatus. Kato's methods create update information called differential data between a recent map version and a prior map version at a central information center. In Kato's system, differential data must be created directly between a recent map version and each previous map version. For example, if version XZ is the most recent version and version XX and XY are the only two preceding versions, differential data is obtained between XZ and XX and also between XZ and XY. If a vehicle has version XX, then it must request and obtain the differential data between XZ and XX. If a vehicle has version XY, then it must request and obtain the differential data between XZ and XY. This requires the center to always store full map data of previous versions in order to create the differential data between all map versions and the most current map version. See col. 4, lines 30 through col. 5, line 65 and col. 7, line 26 through col. 8.

In contrast to Kato, embodiments of the present invention teach a different method for creating differential map data. In the embodiments of present invention, differential data between a map version and the next highest map version are created and stored in a map data storage unit. For example, if versions XX, XY and XZ exist, XZ being the most current version,

differential data between XY and XX is created and stored in the map data storage unit and differential data between XZ and XY is created and stored. In the embodiments of the invention, a batch data is created from the different differential data. If a user is currently using version XX and requests an update to XZ, then the differential data between XY and XX and XZ and XY are obtained from storage and process through a batch processor in order to obtain the differential data between XZ and XX. In this embodiment of the invention, this allows for the system to only maintain the storage of differential data and not full map versions as must be done in Kato's system.

The Office Action alleges that Kato does teach batch updating and alleges that this is disclosed by figures 3-7 of Kato. Applicants respectfully submit that figures 3-7 describe the teachings of Kato discussed above in which differential data is directly obtain between the most current version and each and every prior version. Differential data is not sequentially obtained between the multiple versions where the multiple differential data is then used in a batch process to create the entirety of a differential data.

Therefore, in view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that Kato fails to teach, *inter alia*, wherein the map data multiple data update unit includes a batch update data generation unit configured to generate batch update data from a plurality of pieces of differential data, where each differential data corresponds to a different version, as recited in claims 1 and 7. And a batch update data generation unit configured to generate batch update data from a plurality of differential data, each differential data corresponding to different version information, as recited in claim 8.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Kato fails to teach each and every feature of applicants independent claim as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

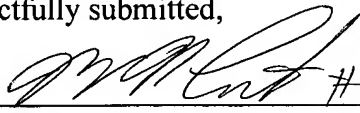
For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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